

Henry A. Landes House
1604 Post Office Street
Galveston
Galveston County
Texas

HABS No. TX-2102

HABS
TEX
84-GALV,
31-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS NO. Tx-2102

HENRY A. LANDES HOUSE

Location: 1604 Post Office Street, Galveston, Galveston County, Texas.

Present Owner: Fred T. Sanders, Jr.

Significance: Landes was a representative businessman of Galveston during the latter part of the nineteenth century. His house is a good example of the romantic eclectic styles of the period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1887. Construction on Landes' house probably began in 1887 as it was reported to be in the course of erection that year. By January 1, 1888 it was reported finished at a total cost of \$30,000.
2. Architects: Dickey and Helmich, architects.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Henry A. Landes was born in Trigg County, Kentucky, June 3, 1844 and at an early age moved to Texas with his family. They settled in Washington County in 1851 and it was there at Soule University, Chappel Hill, that he received his education.

Landes served in the Civil War and saw duty primarily in Galveston and vicinity. Following the war he lived in Austin County. Shortly thereafter, however, his former commander, Captain John A. Wallis, induced him to return to Galveston and there engage in the mercantile business. Thus in 1865 the firm of Wallis, Landes and Company was established.

Landes engaged in other business activity in addition and was one of the organizers of the Island City Real Estate and Homestead Association, established in 1867. This was one of the first such associations in Texas and was later succeeded by the Island City Savings Bank.

He was also one of the originators of the Gulf Loan and Homestead Company of which he was a director and vice-president, a director in the People's Loan and Homestead Company in the Galveston Improvement and Loan Company and vice-president of the Galveston National Bank.

The Landes House is located in the East End Historic District. This district, established in the summer of 1970, is comprised of approximately fifty blocks of residential buildings and is the most complete area of 19th century homes in the city. The district, a portion of Galveston's original residential area, contains numerous examples of Greek Revival and Victorian architecture. Other structures in the district recorded by HABS include the Colonel Walter Gresham House, HABS No. TX-2103 and the John C. Trube House, HABS No. TX-299.

C. Bibliography:

1. Secondary and published sources:

Brown, John H. Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas, p. 353

Galveston News, January 1, 1888

Morrison, Andrew. The Industries of Galveston, 1887,
pp. 40, 115-7.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.
Director
Galveston Architecture Inventory
March 17, 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building is a two story pressed brick structure with Victorian details. It is symmetrically planned about the diagonal axis, with two dissimilar towers at each front corner. A curious pediment at the central corner is pierced by doubled sash windows. A double gallery connects the two towers and has graceful cast iron paired columns and balusters and railing.

2. Condition of fabric: The walls are generally in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building measures 60' x 60', extreme dimensions.

2. Foundations: Foundations are presumed to be brick.

3. Wall construction: The walls are pressed brick.

4. Structural system: All walls are load bearing.
5. Porches: A double front gallery extends around the southeast corner. It is supported by delicate cast iron paired columns with a cast iron railing between.
6. Chimneys: The chimneys are brick.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The entrance doors are massive and ornate with characteristic Victorian moldings. The opening is a round brick arch.
 - b. Windows: The windows are 1 x 1 light double hung with a colored glass transom above. Openings are round arches.
8. Roof: The roof is in several intersecting parts with slate shingles and is hipped.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The plan is characteristic of the period with rooms arranged around a central hall. The stair hall terminates the central hall. One large parlor is located on the left as you enter and two adjoining rooms are on the right. Kitchen and service rooms are to the rear.
2. Stairway: A very ornate heavily carved straight stair is located on the back wall of the stair hall.
3. Floor: Floors are 2" oak. In the central hall they are oak parquet with inlay work.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: A dark stained wainscot, paneled and with an embossed frieze, is found on all walls. The rest is plastered.
5. Doors: Doors are wood five panel design.
6. Trim: Wood trim of characteristic Victorian style is found around all openings. It is dark stained and varnished.
7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Hardware: Hardware is original and characteristic of the time. Mortice locks and butt hinges.
 - b. Lighting: Electric fixtures.

- c. Heating: Characteristic Victorian fireplaces; tile hearth, facings and jambs and wood mantel with mirror over mantel.

D. Site:

1. Orientation and general setting: The house occupies the southeast corner of Block 496.
2. Outbuilding: The original carriage house, a 1 1/2 story brick structure, is in the rear of the property.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Galveston Survey was jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation and the Galveston Historical Foundation Inc., and developed under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). The historical data was written by John C. Garner, Jr., acting as the Director of the Galveston Architecture Inventory. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by Allen Stross in the summer of 1967.